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Robert F. M.

Ex-Aide Says RFK Stopped CIA-Mafia Plot on Castro

By Richard M. Weintraub
Washington Post Staff Writer

The late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy told an aide in 1967 that he had blocked a plan by the Central Intelligence Agency to use the Mafia in an assassination plot against Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Peter B. Edelman, an aide to Kennedy both in the Justice Department when Kennedy was Attorney General and when he was a senator, said in a telephone interview last night that Kennedy had said "I stopped it" when he saw a reference to the plot in a column by Jack Anderson.

Edelman, now a vice president of the University of Massachusetts, said Kennedy had been incensed by the column, which had said that Kennedy felt some guilt about bearing some responsibility in John F. Kennedy's death by being associated in a plot against Castro.

"I remember him saying that there had been some kind of a contact between someone associated with the CIA and the Mafia in some way to arrange for Premier Castro's demise," Edelman said.

"He had found out about it in some way and stopped it," he said.

The New York Times said in a story in today's editions that another former aide to Kennedy, Adam Walinsky, also had confirmed the CIA-Mafia connection.

"He told us that he had discovered that the CIA had made a contract with the Mafia to hit Castro," the Times quoted Walinsky as saying. Walinsky now is a lawyer in New York.

Last week a reliable source told The Washington Post that the agency feared current investigations of CIA activities would pursue alleged agency

involvement in three assassination plots, one of which reportedly was aimed at Castro.

The agency has acknowledged privately that in two episodes — Cuba and the Dominican Republic — attempts may have been carried forward by people who were in close contact with CIA officers.

But the agency refused to comment on the report last week. Last Wednesday, a former associate of President Johnson said that Johnson "believed there was an attempt to knock off Castro, but he never proved it to me."

A former aide to Johnson, Leo Janos, writing in a 1973 Atlantic magazine article, said Johnson once declared after he took office late in 1963 that he discovered "we had been operating a damned Murder Inc. in the Caribbean."

Former Costa Rican President Jose Figueres said in an interview for Mexican television yesterday that he aided the CIA in an attempt to overthrow Leonidas Trujillo, dictator of the Dominican Republic.

"I collaborated with the CIA when we were trying to topple

Trujillo," Figueres said during an interview at his home in San Jose. He refused, however, to elaborate when asked if he had anything to do with the assassination.

Trujillo ruled the Dominican Republic for 31 years before he was assassinated in 1961.

ORG 1 MAFIA

CASTRO, FIDEL

CIA 4.01 ASSASSINATION

TRUJILLO, RAFAEL

CIA 4 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FIGUERES, JOSE

CIA 4 COSTA RICA

JOHNSON, LYNDON